

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Numbering Of Claims

The Office observed that the application was filed with no claim 5, and renumbered claims 6-12 as 5-11 by examiner's amendment. The listing of claims hereinabove reflects that renumbering. New claim 12 has been added, with dependency upon claim 1. No new matter has been added. The limitation of claim 12 was removed claim 1 because the Office considered use of a single spring to be without patentable distinction.

II. Claim Objections

The Office objected to the use of "such detent" in claim 1. The objection is obviated by removal of that language.

The Office objected that the claims were mis-numbered. The numbering has been corrected.

III. 35 USC 112

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC § 112 as being indefinite with respect to "operation of the detent subassembly is independent of the knob". The language has been amended to conform to the abstract, reciting that "operation of the detent sub-assembly is not altered by removal of the knob."

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC § 112 as being vague and indefinite. The rejection is not understood, but the Applicant has nevertheless amended current claim 12 by reciting that the shaft cooperates with a detent sub-assembly located entirely on a user's side of the panel. If the rejection is not thereby overcome, the Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney of record by telephone to work out acceptable language.

IV. 35 USC 103

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 USC § 112 as being obvious over MacDonald (US 3754106) in view of Taniuchi (US 5801346). Those rejections are obviated by the amendments herein, which recite that the detent sub-assembly is located entirely above the panel. Neither of

the cited references teach, suggest, or would have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to locate the detent sub-assembly is located entirely above the panel as of the critical date

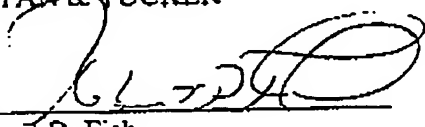
Claims 1-5, 10 and 11 were further rejected under 35 USC § 112 as being obvious over Barcia (3803370) in view of Tamuchi (US 5801346). Those rejections are obviated by the amendments herein, which recite that the detent sub-assembly is located entirely above the panel. Neither of the cited references teach, suggest, or would have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to locate the detent sub-assembly is located entirely above the panel as of the critical date.

The Applicant notes for the record that similar claims to the herein amended claims were deemed allowable by the PCT Office in the IPER dated 22 July 2005 (see WO 2004/021540), and confirmed in the reissued IPER dated 11 April 2006.

V. Request For Allowance

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. The applicant requests allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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